Production of Khadi

*354. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of Khadi has come down to nearly 50 per cent and large number of Khadi workers have been thrown out of employment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any memorandum has been received about the problems being faced by KVI sector; and

(d) if so, action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (d) No, Sir. This is not factually correct. However there was a marginal decline in terms of quantity of Khadi production during 1998-99 over 1997-98, whereas the production in terms of value increased during the same period. Similarly, in the case of employment also there was a marginal decline in the corresponding period. The employment generated in 1998-99 was 13.85 lakhs as against 14.01 lakhs in 1997-98.

The production of Khadi and Village Industries both in terms of quantity and value as well as corresponding employment for the years 1996-97 to 1998-99 are given below:

Year	Production				Employment (in lakhs)		
	Khadi		V.I.	Total	Khadi	V.I.	Total
	Quantity (Mill. Sq. Mtrs.)	Value Rs. Crores	Value Rs. Crores	Value Rs. Crores			
1996-97	111.49	626.40	3889.86	4516.26	14.79	43.38	58.17
1997-98	104.20	624.10	3895.21	4519.31	14.01	42.49	56.50
1998-99	98.20	635.89	4476.48	5112.37	13.85	44.44	58.29

The Government has received a few representations from various Khadi Institutions, which have, *inter-alia* given suggestions with respect to the rebate policy, the financial assistance and the reconstitution of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) etc.

The Khadi rebate policy for the current financial year has already been declared on 1.6.2000. Regarding payment of rebate claims, adequate funds have already been provided to the KVIC against rebate claims. The financial assistance by the banks is provided to the institutions on the basis of the Interest Subsidy Eligibility Certificate (ISEC) issued by the KVIC, which in turn is based on the performance of the institutions. As regards the reconstitution of the Commission, Government have taken note of the suggestions received.

Foreign Postings of SC/ST Officers

*355. SHRI GANDHI AZAD:
SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether SC/ST Parliamentarians in the representations submitted to the Prime Minsiter of 17th December, 1996, Ist September, 1997 and 23rd July, 2000 have demanded placement of SCs/STs Officers as Ambassadors/High Commissioners/Heads of Indian Diplomatic Missions abroad;

(b) if so, actions taken thereon and results achieved; and